

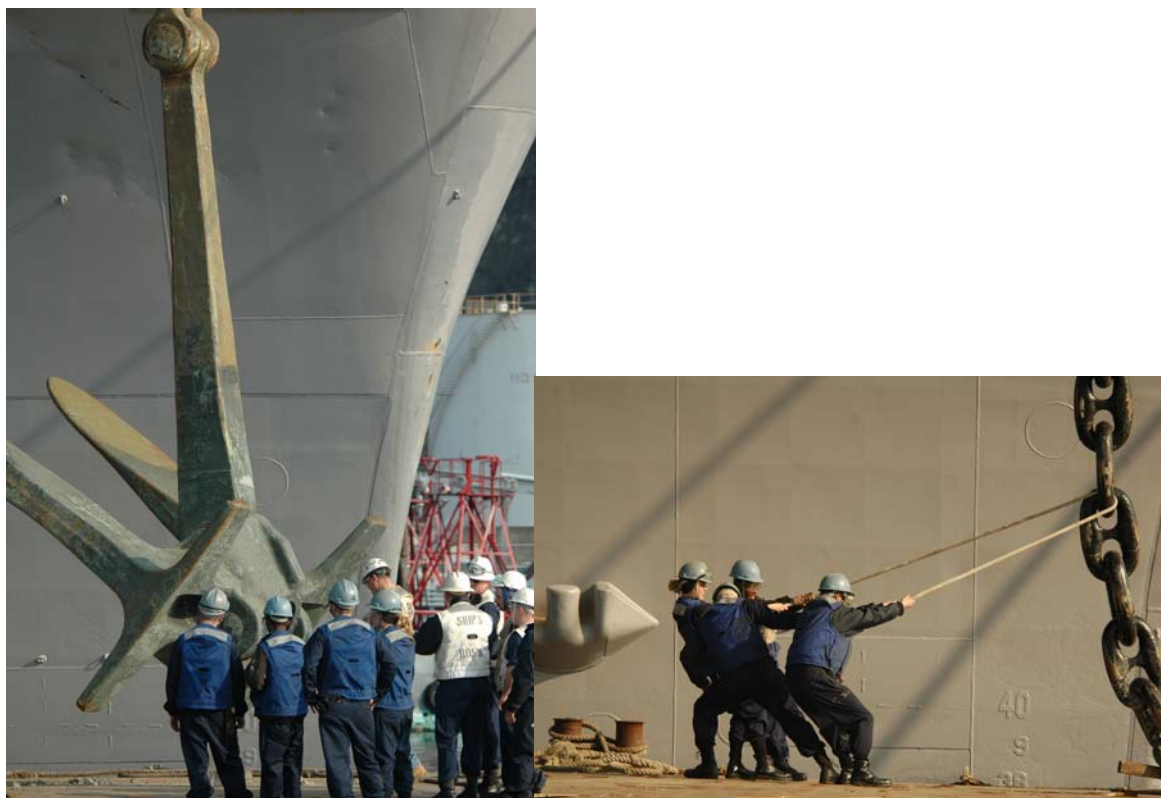


PRESS RELEASE

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Kitty Hawk enters maintenance period

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Matthew Reinhardt, Kitty Hawk public affairs

USS KITTY HAWK, Yokosuka, Japan – USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) entered a \$28.5 million maintenance period here, Jan. 8. This maintenance period is called a selective restricted availability (SRA) and will last through spring.

More than 239,000 man hours are scheduled for the ship's force during SRA, said Cmdr. Dan Carscallen, SRA shipboard coordinator.

"This is an old ship, a lot of maintenance is required to keep Kitty Hawk running," said Carscallen. "This maintenance will keep us mission ready, so it's critical that all major equipment be [inspected] and that jobs be put in."

A new division was created to handle a portion of the work inside the ship, said Lt. Gary Gunlock, ship's force work team (SWFT) coordinator. The SFWT is made up of 200 Kitty Hawk Sailors and will fix problems with lagging, tile, paint, doors, valves, tool issue and several other areas, he said.

Civilian contractors are training the new division, since few of its Sailors had experience with that sort of work, said Gunlock.

"This really is a unique opportunity for the young guys to learn something outside their rates to help them later on as leaders," said Gunlock.

This year's availability is smaller than last year's in both time and job size, but the work is just as important, said Gunlock. He said the planning for this SRA period actually began during last year's, and planning for next year's has already begun.

"This took a lot of prior planning," said Gunlock. "Each team leader has screened the jobs and estimated the necessary man hours and materials. It's a lot of hard work to do, but these guys are all pretty motivated to get this work done for the ship."

Larger jobs during this period include maintenance on boilers, upkeep on aircraft elevators, and replacing the non-skid surfacing for both the flight deck and hangar bay, said Carscallen.

To find more news about the Kitty Hawk Strike Group, visit the Navy NewsStand at www.news.navy.mil/local/cv63/.